

# Chares

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Athenian general, leading figure in fourth-century Athenian politics. He held the *strategia* in at least half of the years between 367/6 and 324/3 BCE, although subsequently his reputation suffered and he fell into obscurity. Chares began his activity defending Athenian interests in the Peloponnese, in northern Greece, and in the Aegean. Then, together with CHABRIAS, IPHIKRATES, and TIMOTHEOS, he was called upon to put down the rebellion of allies of the Second Athenian League in the Social War between 357 and 355, although he was forced to give up a battle he considered conclusive in the zone of Embata (Diod. Sic. 16.21). There he intended to engage with the enemy, whereas the other *strategoi* advised against the battle because of adverse weather conditions. He accused his colleagues of treason and won: Timotheos was convicted. After that Isokrates shaped the tradition that always presented his disciple and friend Timotheos in a favorable light, while finding a negative comparison in Chares (*Antid.* 115–39). This tradition had many echoes in the following centuries and may be the reason for the undeserved *damnatio memoriae* that befell the *strategos* in many authors (ancient and modern). On the other hand, the Athenian demos

continued to give Chares its favor, electing him commander of the whole fleet in many operations, first against Persia and then against PHILIP II OF MACEDON. He was the only Athenian *strategos* to survive politically after the battle of Chaeronea against Philip in 338, where the Greeks were defeated, and was one of the anti-Macedonian politicians whose exile was demanded by Alexander in 335. Thereafter Chares continued his action against Macedon as a commander of MERCENARIES in the Persian army; his death is not recorded, but in 324/3 his name was celebrated by Demosthenes among the Athenian *demotikoi* who had already died (*Epist.* 3.31).

SEE ALSO: Alexander III, the Great; Athenian Confederacy, Second; Chaeronea, battle of; Demosthenes, orator; Social War, Classical Greece; *Strategoi*.

## REFERENCES AND SUGGESTED READINGS

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